GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1407
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2002
DIABETES DISEASE
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that consumption of soft drinks causes of diabetes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to tackle the problem?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b): According to Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR) the health risks of soft drinks are due to their refined sugar and additives content and because they are used as replacement of other beverages and foods which provide vitamins, minerals and other nutrients. Excessive consumption of soft drinks may lead to obesity because of the high calorie intake and obesity tends to increase the risk of development of diabetes later.

(c) Diabetes treatment is done at all levels in the rural health care delivery system and urban health care institutions. A pilot Project on `Strengthening of Bio-Chemical Laboratories and Quality Assurance`, was initiated in 1999-2000 in the States ofMaharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal & Punjab. The National Diabetes Control Programme has now been merged with the Indian Council of Medical Research which has constituted as Expert Group to formulate a revised comprehensive Plan ofaction to control diabetes. Central Health Education Bureau (CHEB) has also strategies/programme including use of powerful electronic media to spread health messages to increase Public Health awareness about diabetes.